

FACT SHEET



Syntex Facility Superfund Site Verona Missouri

October 2002

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular checkups, called five-year reviews, on Superfund sites where cleanups have been completed. EPA Region 7 and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) have completed a second five-year review of the Syntex Facility site located west of the City of Verona, Missouri.

EPA and the MDNR conducted the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

Background

In the 1960s, the facility was operated by Hoffman-Taff, Inc., and used to produce 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) for the U.S. Army as an ingredient in the defoliant commonly known as Agent Orange. In 1968, a portion of the facility was also leased to another company, the Northeastern Pharmaceutical and Chemical Company, for the production of hexachlorophene. In 1969, the facility was purchased by Syntex Agribusiness, Inc. (Syntex).

Dioxin (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) was created as an unwanted byproduct in the production of 2,4,5-T and hexachlorophene. The dioxin-contaminated waste was managed in tanks and lagoons located at the site. Dioxin is considered by EPA to be an extremely toxic contaminant.

Under EPA oversight, Syntex performed cleanup activities beginning in 1983 and continuing until 1998. During the cleanup, processing equipment at the facility was decontaminated and transported offsite for disposal. Dioxin-contaminated soils were excavated and transported offsite for treatment and disposal. A disposal trench located on the bluffs west of the Spring River was covered with clay and topsoil and revegetated. A gravel channel was also installed to intercept ground water before it could contact the disposal trench.

A component of the cleanup involved the installation of a series of monitoring wells to evaluate any possible impact of the site on local ground water quality. A two-year ground water monitoring program was implemented by Syntex in 1998 and 1999. In 2000, a risk assessment report was prepared that considered the results of the ground water monitoring. This risk assessment report is currently under review by EPA and MDNR.

Although the Syntex facility has been cleaned up to an extent that allows for safe industrial use, some restrictions remain on the future use of the property. The Superfund Law requires that a review of site conditions be performed every five years at sites where residual contamination in some way restricts the use of the property. An initial five-year review of the Syntex Facility was completed in 1997. The current five-year review has been completed and has determined that the remedy at the Syntex Facility site continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

Five Year Review

This five-year review consisted of a review of relevant documents and a review of ground water data generated since the previous five-year review. The historic remedy at the site for dioxin-contaminated soils involved excavation and removal of surface soils exceeding 20 parts per billion (ppb) dioxin. This cleanup level remains consistent with current EPA policy for dioxin cleanups in industrial settings. Quarterly ground water sampling was performed for eight quarters from November 1997 through August 1999.

An assessment of this recent data by EPA concludes that site risks due to potential exposure to ground water remain acceptable.

If you have questions or need more information on the Syntex Facility site or the five-year review process, please contact:

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For More Information

The five-year review report and detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Verona City Hall
101 N. Third Street
Verona, Missouri 65969

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays
8 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

EPA Record Center
901 N.5th Street
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